

File #

# Duxbury Clipper

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## LIBRARY WORK WILL START IMMEDIATELY

Masaschl & Son Edg. Corp. of Sandwich, low bidder, has been awarded the contract to build the addition to and remodel the existing Duxbury Library. Work will start immediately.

And so, the long-awaited project will soon begin to take shape before our eyes.

This announcement comes from members of the Library Building Committee who signed the base contract for \$273,130 in conformity with plans by Morehouse, Chesley and Thomas, architects of Lexington.

In 1953 Alice Cahill of the Division of Library Extension of the Mass. Dept. of Education, submitted a report, at the instigation of the late Hector Holmes, on the needs and deficiencies of the Duxbury Free Library. In May 1965, a committee was appointed by Moderator Bartlett Bradley, who was also president of the library board of trustees. This study and advisory committee was chaired by Edward Peters III, Richard Crocker, Francis Park III and Charles Tenney Jr.

### LIBRARY

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The long drawn-out task of defining the requirements of a program based on Miss Cahill's report and investigations conducted by members of the committee was begun. Its work included the naming of a firm of architects, the search resulting in the appointment of a talented young firm of Harvard graduates who operated out of Lexington. The basic concept of the solution to this problem in the form of preliminary drawings was submitted and approved in an application for government funds, but the 1965 application was passed over due to insufficient Federal financing. On the basis of the committee's recommendation, authority to proceed with working drawings was voted at the 1966 town meeting. In the fall of 1966 a second application was approved and this time the federal government allocated funds for Duxbury in the winter of 1967. The overwhelming vote at the March 1967 annual Town Meeting in favor of an appropriation of funds to go ahead with this project is still fresh in the memory of all who attended.

Now the carrying out of the work of construction is under a new committee, the Library Building Committee. Three of the previous committee members continue to serve; Harold Bush-Brown, acting as chairman; Richard Crocker and Francis Park III, vice-chairman and treasurer. Two new members make up the balance; Alvah Boynton and Louis Tura.

By next Town Meeting the new library should be nearing completion and in operation, if not fully completed.

The contract includes an addition at the rear towards the south which will more than double available space. A new heating system of forced hot air, temperature and humidity and fresh air controlled, will heat and ventilate both old and new parts of the building. Plans call for a new lighting system throughout, new public toilets, accoustical treatment, and outside walks and a parking lot and landscaping.

### SPECIAL FEATURES

An exterior ramp enabling anyone who is handicapped to avoid the steps in entering the building from the parking lot

A metal trough in the floor for potted plants forming a partial screen between the lending desk area and the quiet reading, browsing and study area

A multi-purpose room for lectures, discussion groups, exhibitions and music records

The contract price plus necessary supplementary expenses will be supplied;

By the Town's current funds and a bond issue as voted; by

\$80,000 from the Federal Government; by private funds including \$40,000 from the Grafton Fund Trustees for the children's wing and a \$15,000 gift from Mrs. H.C. Bumpus Jr. for furnishing and equipping the multi-purpose room in the front.

In addition, individual donations are anticipated but not yet announced for furnishing the ad-

ult reading room, for furnishing and equipping a mezzanine area for special purposes, for the design and execution of a children's and mother's garden, and for interior tropical plants.

The architect, acting for the owner, will be in charge of supervision of construction. In this case it is J.O. Chesley who will visit the site periodically or on call and who interprets the contract documents.

The Building Committee has engaged an engineer and field superintendent of long standing; Sam Fuller of So. Duxbury as clerk-of-the-works. He will be project representative full time on the job, serving the interests of the Town, compiling detailed information and reports to the supervising architect, and reporting to the committee any emergency matters which should be brought to its attention.

To arrive at the date for signing the contract has taken two years and two months. This seems like a long time to give to the planning stage, but the unavoidable delay has had its compensations in allowing ample time for study and restudy on the part of the committee working with the architects in modifying and perfecting the initial concept and in making sure that the plans as finally solidified had the full approval of the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension.

Now we can all look forward to a building which incorporates all the features of function and service found in the modern town library and instead of lagging behind Duxbury will be out in front in the American "cultural revolution," which seems to be breaking out all over.

